

SC AHEC

ON N N E C T S

South Carolina AHEC Receives National Award

Cindy Abole, MUSC, Public Relations

The South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) recently received special recognition from among the nation's 46 other AHEC programs for its excellence and collaborative educational partnerships with statewide institutions, health care professionals, and underserved communities all designed to improve health care for South Carolina's residents.

David Garr, M.D., the executive director of the South Carolina AHEC, along with Pam Bartley, Mary Cabaniss, Julie Ghent, Diane Kennedy, and Cheri Plyler from South Carolina, accepted the prestigious Eugene S.

Mayer Award at the National AHEC meeting held June 11-14 in Omaha, NA. The award, which is presented every two years to a model statewide AHEC system, is named in the memory of Dr. Eugene S. Mayer, founder of North Carolina AHEC which, along with South Carolina, was among the first 11 states in 1972 to receive federal funding to establish an AHEC program.

"I accept this award on behalf of many individuals – our predecessors as well as the current team who have worked so effectively and with such commitment during the past 34 years to accomplish all that we have in our state," said Garr. "This award recognizes the excellent work that has gone on in the past in South Carolina and which continues at the present time."

The South Carolina AHEC was created to address South Carolina's significant

health care workforce needs by providing recruitment, retention, and educational programs for present and future health care professionals.

"The AHEC councils and the AHEC Center Directors are a valuable resource," Garr said. "We work well as a team to guide our statewide program and to maximize its effectiveness."

Under the leadership of South Carolina AHEC, partnerships with the University of South Carolina, MUSC, Clemson University, and other institutions have thrived and produced innovative programs

for health care professionals and students. For example, the Family Medicine Rural Clerkship has introduced USC and MUSC medical students to rural health care and the value and gratification that comes from providing care to South Carolina's underserved populations. The Health Professions Student Program collaborates with health professions programs from seven universities in our state to expose students to the realities of clinical practice in rural and underserved areas, and to introduce them to communities as a focus for health improvements. Another program, the South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training (SCRIPT) that is administered by Lowcountry AHEC, is a national model for interdisciplinary education, and has provided more than



South Carolina AHEC Representatives Accept Award at NAO Leadership Conference in Omaha

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Fall
2006

**SOUTH
CAROLINA AHEC**

Excellence In Health Care Through Education



Family Medicine Interest Day Draws Students into South Carolina Training Programs

Becky Seignious, Director of Recruitment & Retention, SC AHEC

The 17th Annual South Carolina AHEC Family Medicine Interest Day was held on August 12, 2006 at the Embassy Suites in Columbia, South Carolina. The purpose of this program is to provide a forum for medical students to experience the unique challenges and rewards of a career as a family medicine physician.

A total of 57 medical students from 11 medical schools attended the Interest Day. This event is sponsored by the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) Statewide Family Medicine Residency Program Directors and the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians (SCAFP).

Members of the SCAFP attended the opening luncheon to discuss the specialty of family medicine with the students and to answer questions about the specialty. The impact of the South Carolina AHEC Statewide Family Medicine Residency Program on the state of South Carolina was evident by the Program connections of the Academy members represented at this event. They included:

- William Hueston, MD, SCAFP President and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), the location of one of the residency training programs.
- Ralph Riley, MD, SCAFP Past President and practicing family physician in Saluda, S.C. Dr. Riley is a graduate of the USC School of Medicine and the Spartanburg Family Medicine Residency Training Program. He is one of the first recipients of the South Carolina AHEC Rural Physician Program State Incentive Grant and a preceptor for the Family Medicine Rural Clerkship.
- Sam Stone, MD, SCAFP Past President and practicing physician in Chester, S.C. He is a graduate of MUSC and the Anderson Family

Medicine Residency Training Program. Dr. Stone is also a recipient of the South Carolina AHEC Rural Physician Program State Incentive Grant and a preceptor for the Family Medicine Rural Clerkship.

- Neal Shealy, MD, Vice-President of the SCAFP is the Medical Director of the Harrison Peeples Healthcare Center in Varnville, S.C. Dr. Shealy is a graduate of MUSC and attended the Greenville Hospital System Residency Training Program. Dr. Shealy is also the recipient of a South Carolina AHEC Rural Physician Program State Incentive Grant and is active as a preceptor for the Family Medicine Rural Clerkship.



A Medical Student Practices Using a Scope on a Simulated Patient

- Paquita Turner, Executive Vice President of the Academy has worked with the Academy and collaboratively with the South Carolina AHEC for twenty five (25) years.

After lunch, each student selected four hands-on workshops which he/she could attend conducted by South Carolina AHEC's eight Family Medicine Residency Training Program Directors and faculty.



Medical Students Practice Applying and Removing Casts

Following the hands-on workshops, medical students attended a recruiting fair where South Carolina's Family Medicine Residency Training Programs and five out-of-state residency programs discussed their respective residency programs with the students in

the hopes of recruiting them into their residency program when they graduate from medical school.

For more information on Graduate Medical Education and Recruitment & Retention initiatives, visit www.scahec.net.

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700 students during the past 13 years with a chance to live, experience, and deliver health care in clinical sites throughout the state.

“MUSC and USC train the majority of physicians and other health care providers who ultimately practice in South Carolina,” said John Raymond, M.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. “AHEC provides a critical link between our institutions and rural sites where much of the health care is delivered in our state. Without AHEC, our ability to effectively deliver health care across the state would be severely impaired.”

An important element of the AHEC mission is to identify young people who want to work in the health care field. The South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program encourages and provides guidance to these students. For example, each summer for the past several years the South Carolina AHEC has sponsored an intensive program for under-represented minority and disadvantaged students interested in considering health care careers. Held each June, students are exposed to a wide range of health professions disciplines and receive special preparation in areas that will help them be successful in their pursuit of advanced studies in the health professions.

In June 2006, the South Carolina AHEC received word that it was awarded a three-year, \$900,000 Duke Endowment grant designed to help establish coalitions in each of the four AHEC regions. These coalitions will develop regional initiatives and programs to promote health care careers among middle and high school students. The premise for the program is to build a collaborative working relationship between schools, area businesses, health care, faith communities, civic organizations, and other groups to encourage and support youth who want to pursue careers in health care.

Other AHEC services include the provision of educational programs for health care professionals. In 2005, the South Carolina AHEC provided more than 35,000 health care professionals with continuing education and training programs throughout the state. The South Carolina AHEC's Information Service provides health care providers, students, and preceptors working in communities with access to the online MUSC Library resources.

Looking to the future, Garr and the South Carolina AHEC team plan to continue to address the health care workforce needs in South

Carolina. The team wants to maintain its present focus on youth, health professions students, and frontline health care professionals throughout the state. Garr would also like to expand the focus on interprofessional education, preparing teams of health care workers to practice together to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the state's health care delivery system.



Dr. David Garr, Mary Cabaniss, Pam Bartley, Diane Kennedy, Julie Ghent, and Cheri Plyler Accepted the Eugene Mayer Award

“We need to make sure we're doing everything possible to help grow and sustain our workforce and provide them with what they need to be successful in their current jobs and professions,” Garr said. “The future is very bright for AHEC as an organization as we work to help address the health care needs of South Carolinians. We have an excellent group of people in this organization and positive working relationships with organizations and groups throughout the state. No single program can succeed by itself. AHEC has been successful as a result of the partnerships that have been built and maintained for more than three decades.”

“The South Carolina AHEC system has taken on a national leadership role in using innovative methods to promote interdisciplinary rural health care and wellness education, to address health care disparities, and to inspire the next generation of health care trainees to consider careers dedicated to service in geographically and economically underserved areas. This award is a mark of distinction for Dr. Garr and for his outstanding team of remarkable and dedicated AHEC Center Directors, Residency Training Programs, staff, teachers and health care providers. We are fortunate to have such an outstanding organization in South Carolina, where our needs are so great,” Raymond said. For information about the South Carolina AHEC, visit www.scahec.net.

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Inaugural Ramage Award Presented to Dr. Richard Davis

The first Annual Raymond C. Ramage, MD Award for Leadership in Humane Education was presented to Richard M. Davis, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Ophthalmology at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine on June 8, 2006 during the Palmetto Health Resident Graduate Reception.

The Ramage Award was established by South Carolina AHEC to recognize a deserving faculty member in a specialty other than Family Medicine.

The award is based on a similar award, The Halford Award, which recognizes leadership in humanism in Family Medicine. Dr. Raymond Ramage was an integral part of the formation of the South Carolina Consortium of Community Teaching Hospitals in 1970 and was a "founding father" of the South Carolina AHEC in 1972. From 1979 to

1982, he served as chairman of a task force on graduate medical education charged with developing and integrating South Carolina's medical education schools and teaching hospitals, and he served as Governor Carroll Campbell's appointee on the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education from 1988 to 1996.

Dr. Layton McCurdy, Chair of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and former Dean of the College of Medicine and Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Medical University of South Carolina, presented the award to Dr. Davis. Dr. Davis' letters of recommendation stated that he was well deserving of this award and reflected that

he truly exemplifies all of the attributes of the Ramage Award: "A visionary educator and mentor who deserves to be recognized for his outstanding accomplishments in promoting among faculty and residents the ideals of caring, respect, passion and joy in teaching, learning and working."



Kathy Stephens and Dr. John Raymond are Pictured with the Ramage Award Winner, Dr. Richard Davis

Many of Dr. Davis' colleagues and friends were present to see him receive this

distinguished award including Dr. James Raymond, Senior Vice President for Quality, Medical Education, and Research and Dr. Larry Faulkner, Vice President of Medical Affairs at USC and Dean of the USC School of Medicine.

South Carolina AHEC congratulates Dr. Davis on this accomplishment!

South Carolina AHEC Sponsors 21ST Annual Practice Opportunities Fair

The 21st Annual South Carolina AHEC Practice Opportunities Fair was held on August 12, 2006 at The Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia, SC. Forty-one residents/physicians and approximately 80 exhibitors representing 38 community health centers, hospitals and physician practices attended.

The Practice Opportunities Fair allows residents to identify practice opportunities within South Carolina and network with health care organizations across the state. Residents are invited from all of the South Carolina residency training programs. Graduates from MUSC's College of Medicine and USC's School of Medicine who elected to take out of state residencies are also invited. Residents who completed their training out of state are encouraged to attend in order to recruit them back to South Carolina.

Residents circulated through an exhibit hall and were able to discuss career options directly with employers. Throughout the morning, door prizes that were provided by the exhibitors were given away and added a touch of excitement to the Fair. This year's exhibitors reported being very impressed with the quality of the participants.



Residents Visit Booths During Fair

Since 1985, over 300 physicians have been recruited as a direct result of the South Carolina AHEC Practice Opportunities Fair.

South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training (SCRIPT 2006)

Diane M. Kennedy, MS, Lowcountry AHEC Center Director & SCRIPT Project Director

The South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training (SCRIPT) held five sessions throughout the state this past summer. The program is sponsored by Lowcountry AHEC, in collaboration with Mid-Carolina, Pee Dee, and Upstate AHEC Centers. The project is 13 years old and for the past four years SCRIPT has been a statewide

project involving all South Carolina AHEC Centers. SCRIPT has the goal of preparing health professions students to deliver culturally acceptable care in rural settings from an interdisciplinary, community focused

perspective. Living and practicing in a rural community enables health professions students to learn that rural health care presents unique challenges as well as opportunities for a positive, high-quality lifestyle, both personally and professionally.

Throughout the year the SCRIPT team works diligently to prepare for the program. The health professions student (HPS) coordinators are busy in their rural areas to arrange the many details by collaborating with health professions preceptors, community liaisons, community groups, and the many other individuals and groups that it takes to bring this project together.

Since 1993, the Bureau of Health Professions' Quentin N. Burdick Program for Rural Interdisciplinary Training has funded SCRIPT. In 2000, Lowcountry AHEC received an additional SCRIPT grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Southern Rural Access Program, which is administered in South Carolina by the South Carolina Office of Rural

Health. The RWJF grant allowed the program to go beyond the lowcountry region of South Carolina by developing SCRIPT into the present statewide program.

In 2006, SCRIPT

served 73 students from six universities placed in over 20 counties in the four AHEC regions of the state. SCRIPT students included the following universities, Medical University of South Carolina, Clemson University, Francis Marion University, University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University, and Winthrop University. Health professions disciplines included medicine, physician assistant, pharmacy, nursing, nurse practitioner, physical therapy, public health, health nutrition, speech therapy, and health administration.

SCRIPT students commented on what they had learned from their interdisciplinary interaction. One student commented "...the four

weeks of clinical experience will never be forgotten and was very beneficial to my education."

Another student said, "My summer with SCRIPT was an inspiring one. My interest in working with the underserved population was awakened during my 'internship' in Winnsboro."

SCRIPT has shown that immersion of health professions students for a relatively short period of time in rural, interdisciplinary, community-based health care increases their likelihood of working in interdisciplinary teams and selecting a rural, underserved practice. A total of 683 students have taken SCRIPT over the past 13 years. Three SCRIPT alumni surveys were conducted in 2001, 2003, and 2005. The surveys have concluded that 92% of alumni demonstrated intent to practice on an interdisciplinary team and secondly that 41% were either practicing in a rural area or intend to practice in a rural area. In addition, a survey of SCRIPT alumni five years after graduation was conducted to determine if they have continued to practice in rural areas or have become rural providers after initially working in urban areas. The five year post-graduation survey showed that 65% are working on an interdisciplinary team and 56% are either working in a rural area or desired to work in a rural area.

For more information on SCRIPT, visit www.lcahec.com.



SCRIPT Student Provides Screening at Community Event

2006 SCRIPT Student Numbers By Discipline

Med	PA	Pharm	Nursing	PT	NP	Nutrition	Health Admin	Public Health	Speech	Total
11	3	13	24	4	1	4	5	4	4	73

Medical Technology Program Helps the Pee Dee

Vicki Anderson, MT (ASCP), McLeod School of Medical Technology

Medical Technologists, also referred to as Clinical Laboratory Scientists, are a less known, but crucial member of the health care workforce. They evaluate laboratory specimens to determine the presence or absence of disease states. The laboratory results generated are used for diagnosis and treatment of disease, prediction of states of wellness, conformation of suspected illness and appropriateness of treatment regimens. Accuracy and precision are essential when performing analyses using sophisticated biomedical instrumentation.

Because Medical Technologists work behind the scenes, few patients realize the impact of this medical professional. Some estimates state that the clinical laboratory generates 70% of the information used in clinical decision-making. According to the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), "the practice of modern medicine would be impossible without tests performed in the clinical laboratory". As is the case with other health professions, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts critical shortages of medical technologists. The Bureau of Labor statistics predicts that only about one third of the laboratory professionals needed to fill vacancies will graduate based on current enrollment statistics. In 1970 there were 791 medical technology programs in US. Currently there are about 230. In 1977, 6,519 medical technologists graduated nationally. In 2001 there were 2,061 medical technology graduates; meanwhile 10 billion laboratory tests were performed that year.

In 1927, the American Society of Clinical Pathology formed the Board of Registry and educational standards for laboratory personnel were established. Today the educational programs throughout the United States are equally divided between hospitals and universities. NAACLS (National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences) serves as the accrediting body for medical technology programs. Pee Dee AHEC and McLeod Regional Medical Center's laboratory work together to provide the Pee Dee region of South Carolina with a hospital-based program in medical technology.

The McLeod School of Medical Technology was established in 1977. It was the vision of local pathologist Vera C. Hyman, M.D. to provide the Pee Dee region with baccalaureate level medical technologists to staff the area laboratories. During this

period, Dr. Hyman also served as the Director of Medical Education for Pee Dee AHEC. Therefore, the idea for a partnership between the McLeod clinical laboratory and Pee Dee AHEC evolved. Sister Connie Fahey, Pee Dee AHEC Allied Health Coordinator, who was also a medical technologist, served as the educational coordinator for the program.

When McLeod Hospital opened their program, there were five other programs in South Carolina but none served the Pee Dee. The Medical University of South Carolina in the Lowcountry had the oldest program and the only university-based program. The other hospital-based programs were Baptist Hospital in Columbia, Self Hospital in Greenwood, Greenville Memorial and Anderson Memorial. The first class at the McLeod School of Medical Technology had three graduates complete the program in 1978. Subsequently, the School of Medical Technology has graduated 145 medical technologists. Unfortunately the programs at Greenville Memorial and Self Hospital closed in the 1980s, the program at Anderson closed in the 1990s and the program at MUSC closed in 2002. On a positive note, Lexington Medical Center opened a program in 2003 bringing the current number of hospital-based programs in South Carolina to three.

Coker College, Francis Marion University and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke are presently affiliated with the McLeod School of Medical Technology. Students may complete three years of pre-requisite course work, then apply to the medical technology program. If accepted into the program, the student's senior year is completed at McLeod. The 30 semester hours of coursework transfers back to the parent college/university and the college grants the degree. Upon successful completion of a NAACLS accredited program, the student is a medical technologist and eligible for employment. Upon completion of their NAACLS program, students may sit for national certification examinations.

McLeod School of Medical Technology will soon begin reviewing applications for the class that begins in August of 2007. For details about pre-requisite requirements and to download an application packet, visit the school's web site at www.peedeeahec.net or contact the Program Director at 843-777-2497.

South Carolina Launches Refined Health Careers Program

South Carolina AHEC is pleased to announce an exciting change in the Student Development & Diversity Program. Most commonly referred to as the SDDP, the program has undergone a name change. On July 10, 2006, the SDDP became known as the South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program (HCP).

The name change will make the program more recognizable throughout the communities of South Carolina. The goal of the program remains to increase the number of minority and disadvantaged students entering health professions in South Carolina. The Health Careers Program title, however, provides a better

description of the purpose of the program, which is to assist students in exploring health careers and making decisions about entering the health professions pipeline. The name also complements the highly anticipated start of the Health Careers Academy (HCA). The HCA is a four year, academic program for high school students that will kick off in September, 2006 at the regional AHEC centers.

The HCP will continue to sponsor the highest quality programming for students interested in exploring health professions. Programming will continue to have fun-filled learning activities that include individual advising, health-related skills training, health professional networking, state and national conference opportunities, and summer enrichment activities. To learn more, visit the South Carolina AHEC website at www.schahec.net.

Practicing Professionals Return to Inspire the Next Generation

A major goal of the South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program is the transition of Health Careers Program participants to practicing role models. The progress being made towards this goal was evident during the 2006 Health Careers Summer Institute when six former participants served as session facilitators.

Jenean White, MD was an active member of the Lowcountry AHEC Health Careers Program and is now a family practice physician with AnMed Health in Hartwell, GA. Dr. White provided motivation during the opening luncheon of the Institute. She shared her personal story and explained that, as a high school and undergraduate student, she had been told she did not have what it takes to be physician. Dr. White identified her key to success: perseverance.

As a member of the Upstate AHEC Health Careers Program,

Eboni Harris, served as president of the Greenville program during her senior year in high school. She is now a practicing emergency room nurse at St. Francis Hospital in Greenville, SC. Eboni facilitated the Vitals Measurement Workshops at the Institute.

Gina Griffin also was a member of the Upstate AHEC Health Careers Program in Greenville. It was there that she was introduced to the medical technology profession. She brought her knowledge as a medical technologist and aphaeresis technician to the Institute as a facilitator of the Venipuncture Workshops.

Director of Rehab Services at Spartanburg Regional Hospital System, Randi Scott, facilitated the sessions on rehabilitation sciences where students learned about occupational and physical therapy.

Lori Brooks learned about the field of anesthesia nursing while involved as a member of the Upstate AHEC Health Careers Program. She is now a practicing nurse anesthetist at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and shared information about the field during the nurse anesthetist sessions of the Institute.

Furman sophomore Jason Williams of the Mid-Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program brought greetings from the student body of Furman University during the opening luncheon. Jason is a past recipient of both the Mid-Carolina AHEC and Upstate AHEC Student of the Year awards. He was on hand to discuss the college matriculation process.

South Carolina AHEC commends the professional accomplishments of its graduates and appreciates their continued support of the Health Careers Program.



Students Participate in South Carolina AHEC Future Health Professionals Academy

The Medical University of South Carolina hosted 25 undergraduate students from across South Carolina as participants in the 2006 South Carolina AHEC Future Health Professionals Academy during the week of June 3rd. In the past, the Academy had offered programming solely to pre-nursing students. This year, the Academy was enhanced with the addition of a track for students interested in exploring careers in dental medicine.

The addition of the new track was made possible through collaboration with the MUSC College of Dental Medicine.

The 2006 Academy fellows were accepted through a rigorous application process. Pre-Nursing Fellows were required to have a 3.0 grade point average, to have been accepted to an undergraduate program in South Carolina, and have a demonstrated plan to enter the field of nursing. Pre-Dental Academy Fellows were also required to have a 3.0 grade point average, must have completed a minimum of 12 hours of undergraduate credit and expressed an interest in dental medicine as a profession.

"The Academy offers the opportunity to gain experience in time management, group participation, and responsibility," says Alison Davis, 2nd year Fellow and Francis Marion University sophomore. "The sessions are very informative and challenging."

The Academy was facilitated by practitioners from throughout the Tri-County community and nursing



Students Toured the MUSC Mobile Health Unit



Practicing Professionals Served as Facilitators

and dental students from the Medical University. It was filled with 64 hours of didactic and clinical seminars designed for students at the pre-health training level. Guest faculty facilitated sessions that included topics such as academic skills development, pharmacology and gross anatomy. Clinical hours were spent in campus labs and clinics and evening forums provided a time for the Academy Fellows to talk with practicing professionals and health professions students.

"I enjoyed hearing from the speakers and learning what it took for them to get where they are now", notes Academy Fellow and Lander University freshman Ryan Tew.

The week culminated with the annual presentation of interdisciplinary poster projects with topics that included diabetes, metabolic syndrome, cancer, health disparities, obesity and cultural competency in healthcare.

2006 Academy Fellows

Sabrina Adams	Tunisia Beach
Stanita Bowman	Angele Bradley
Amanda Bublitz	Alison Davis
Fatimah Davis	Ashley Dixon
Julie Douangchak	Danielle Furby
Dustin Gamble	Julian Gapud
Tiana Gordon	Jada Kastner
Ryann McGill	Jade Magpantay
Shernise Mitchell	Jennifer Paige
Tiana Redden	Matthew Richardson
Tyren Russell	Calandra Smith
Alicia Steen	Ryan Tew
Brittanni Wright	Cheryl Wright

The 2006 South Carolina AHEC Future Health Professionals Academy was a collaborative effort of the MUSC Project EXPORT, MUSC College of Nursing, MUSC College of Dental Medicine, MUSC Hollings Cancer Center and South Carolina AHEC. Applications for the 2007 South Carolina AHEC Future Health Professionals Academy will be available in February, 2007 through the regional AHEC Centers Health Careers Program coordinators and electronically at www.scahec.net.



2006 Institute Competition Winners Announced

The annual Academic Health Education Competition was held as a part of the 2006 South Carolina AHEC Future Health Professionals Leadership Institute. The Competition offers the opportunity for participants to demonstrate individual talent as well as academic and professional knowledge and ability.

Competition Categories:

AHEC Jeopardy - presented in the format of the televised Jeopardy game using the categories of South Carolina AHEC history, human resources, African-American contributions to medical advancement, SAT vocabulary, and medical terminology.

Forensics – Contestants present prepared speeches to support the Institute's theme. Judges name the winner based on the highest scored presentation.

Human Resources – A scored quiz and mock interview allows the contestants to demonstrate his/her knowledge and mastery of job interviewing skills.

SpellBound – The standard spelling bee guidelines are used in this competition where SAT vocabulary words and medical terminology are used.

Essay – On-site essays are written on the Institute's theme and judged by local English instructors on content, grammar and theme support.

Poster – A visual presentation and written abstract of the Institute's theme are scored by local judges.

Talent – Participants are invited to share their individual artistic talents while providing an evening of fun and entertainment.

Winners of the Competition were announced at the Leadership

Banquet held on Thursday, June 12. Dr. Eric Schlueter, a family practitioner in Winnsboro, SC and author of the recently published *Becoming A Physician: A Complete and Definitive Resource for Minority Students*, provided motivation as the guest speaker. He emphasized that all things are possible and encouraged the participants to pursue their dreams.

South Carolina AHEC 2006 Competition winners:

Sedric Warren, Mid-Carolina AHEC – Jeopardy Competition
Amanda Wilson, Mid-Carolina AHEC – Forensics Competition
Tacorey Campbell, Upstate AHEC - Human Resources Competition
Janae' N. Hunter, Upstate AHEC - Spellbound Competition
Bridget Manning, Pee Dee AHEC – Essay Competition
Stephen Johnson, Lowcountry AHEC -Poster Competition
Tiffany Williams, Mid-Carolina AHEC – Talent Competition

Scholarship Winners Announced

The Health Careers Program of South Carolina AHEC is pleased to recognize the 2006 Future Health Professionals Scholarship recipients: **Bridget Manning** (Pee Dee AHEC), **Ashley Jones** (Upstate AHEC), **Shernise Mitchell** (Lowcountry AHEC), and **LaToya Bronson** (Mid-Carolina AHEC). The 2006 scholarship recipients received a \$300 award

during the annual Leadership Banquet held at Furman University on June 12, 2006.

The scholarship program was initiated in 2005 to acknowledge outstanding accomplishments of program participants and to assist in off-setting expenses associated with their first year of college. Funding for the program is provided by the registration fees from the annual South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Summer

Institute. Scholarship recipients are required to be graduating high school seniors with a minimum grade point average of 2.75. Applications require the inclusion of extra-curricular activities and community service, an essay outlining a plan to impact health care in South Carolina upon entering a health profession, academic transcripts, two letters of recommendation, and documentation of undergraduate acceptance.



The South Carolina AHEC looks forward to annually recognizing the accomplishments of its program participants. The fall edition of SC AHEC Connects provides the venue to publicize year-end highlights. The Health Careers Program is pleased to commend:

2006 Graduates:

Octavia Allen	Benedict College	Lowcountry AHEC
Colleen Benefiel	College of Charleston	Lowcountry AHEC
Keisha Bentley	Erskine College	Upstate AHEC
LaToya Bronson	Francis Marion University	Mid-Carolina AHEC
Amanda Bublit	College of Charleston	Lowcountry AHEC
Tyandra Caldwell	Georgia Southern	Mid-Carolina AHEC
Fatimah Davis	University of SC	Lowcountry AHEC
Tamara Galloway	Lander University	Upstate AHEC
Tiffany Garvin	Benedict College	Lowcountry AHEC
Laquisha Goodwin	Horry-Georgetown Technical College	Pee Dee AHEC
Tonya Gregg	Winthrop University	Pee Dee AHEC
Carlos Hamlin	Technical College of the Lowcountry	Lowcountry AHEC
Nykia Henderson	University of SC	Upstate AHEC
Stanard Johnson	SC State University	Lowcountry AHEC
Ashley Jones	Tri-County Technical College	Upstate AHEC
Jada Kastner	Spartanburg Technical College	Upstate AHEC
Dyleshia Lance	Horry-Georgetown Technical College	Pee Dee AHEC
LaRobin Lee	Francis Marion University	Pee Dee AHEC
Jonathan McKinney	University of SC	Lowcountry AHEC
Bridget Manning	College of Charleston	Pee Dee AHEC
Aishia Martin	University of SC	Mid-Carolina AHEC
Shernise Mitchell	Coastal Carolina	Lowcountry AHEC
Tanika Mitchell	Benedict College	Mid-Carolina AHEC
Katherine Myers	Furman University	Mid-Carolina AHEC
Chinwenu Onu	University of SC	Lowcountry AHEC
Brandon Palmer	University of SC	Lowcountry AHEC
Antionette Rhynes	Medical University of SC	Upstate AHEC
Tyren Russell	University of SC Aiken	Lowcountry AHEC
Lauren Saga	Morris College	Pee Dee AHEC
Corey Scott	Tri-County Technical College	Upstate AHEC
Sherilynne Smart	University of SC	Lowcountry AHEC
Alicia Steen	University of SC	Mid-Carolina AHEC
Eureka Sumpter	University of SC Aiken	Lowcountry AHEC
Ryan Tew	Lander University	Lowcountry AHEC
LaDarius Thompson	University of SC Upstate	Upstate AHEC
Kent Tisdale, II	College of Charleston	Lowcountry AHEC
Jaleisa Turner	Francis Marion University	Pee Dee AHEC
Jasmin Virola	Benedict College	Lowcountry AHEC
Persephony White	University of South Carolina	Lowcountry AHEC
Dorothy Williams	Coastal Carolina	Lowcountry AHEC
Jaylene Williams	University of SC	Mid-Carolina AHEC
Tiffany Williams	College of Charleston	Mid-Carolina AHEC
Cheryl Wright	University of SC	Lowcountry AHEC



2006 Health Training Program Acceptance:

Sabrina Adams	SC State University	Nursing	Lowcountry AHEC
Gregory Brown	Technical College of the Lowcountry	Nursing	Lowcountry AHEC
Samantha Bryant	Benedict College	Social Work	Lowcountry AHEC
Alison Davis	Francis Marion University	Nursing	Pee Dee AHEC
Bethany Duncan	Medical University of SC	Nursing	Lowcountry AHEC
Jasmine Edney	University of SC Aiken	Nursing	Lowcountry AHEC
Kendra Ham	Medical University of SC	Medical	Upstate AHEC
Robert Hawkes	University of SC Aiken	Nursing	Lowcountry AHEC
Kendra Hunter	SC State University	Nursing	Lowcountry AHEC
Lakeisha Jenkins	SC State University	Nursing	Lowcountry AHEC
Tamara Johnson	Medical University SC	Medicine	Upstate AHEC
Nakeisha Thompson	Technical College of the Lowcountry	Nursing	Lowcountry AHEC
Kimberly White	Technical College of the Lowcountry	Nursing	Lowcountry AHEC

2006 New Practicing Professionals:

LaDavia Drummond	Upstate AHEC	Clinical Pharmacist
Antionette Rhynes	Upstate AHEC	Family Medicine Resident
Stanard Johnson	Lowcountry AHEC	Biology Research

NeuroBlast!

Welcome to NeuroBlast!, an activity designed to improve the reader's knowledge of health careers. This edition of NeuroBlast! will test your knowledge about colleges and universities. Test your knowledge by finding the hidden words. Answers can be found at WWW.SCAHEC.NET.

NEUROBLAST

S C S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y R L V J D Z
A L G B H C I N J D L E K F M G N A O H P I Q
R A S U T C U I V N G R E E N V I L L E I T H
J F K S L O M V W O X P Y Q Z R A L B S S C G
D L E C O L L E G E O F C H A R L E S T O N F
U I V A W U X R Y A Z M A B B N C N D C U E O
F N G I H M I S J P K Q M L R M T N S O T P U
Q V R K S B T I U W V X E W Y X C Y B Z H A Z
B F C E D I E T F F G A D H B I O J E K E L C
M D N N O A P Y Q U E N I O R F K P N S R T G
U H V I W J M O R R I S C O L L E G E X N Y K
C E Z F A L B F C M D M A E A F R G D H U I O
O J P R K Q L S M A N R L N N O M P I Q N R S
A D I A S T J C K N L U U M D N V Q C O I R W
S M X N I J I R S T J O N K E I L M T R V T S
T H E C I T A D E L Y H I Z R A I N R B E O C
A T D I U E V F W G X J V Y K Z A L P S R A M
L C B S G C H C Q L I M E S T O N E D X S E T
C L E M S O N F U G V H R I W J D R K Y I S L
A M Z A N N O A P B Q C S R D S E T U E T V F
R W G R X V Y H Z I A W I N T H R O P B Y E E
O E J I F E K P V U W Q T M X A S Y N U Z O R
L B V O F R H E E S B R Y S T B O B J O N E S
I C R N A S D S B C E T O F U C N G V D J H K
N I W E I E J X F U K Y F L Z G M C A W N D I
A O B H K P C L Q P R E S B Y T E R I A N D N
W A E A N R H L B S F M C G N C K X E R X H E
I O D M O M G L D T J P E K M F B G B K C Q L
M W O F F O R D N A O R I A P J S B Q K T L R
U S M N V V M J G T T W I P U U X V M V V Y W
Z X Y R S O U T H E R N M E T H O D I S T Z A

Allen	Morris College
Anderson	N. Greenville
Bob Jones	Presbyterian
Clafin	SC State University
Clemson	Southern Methodist
Coastal Carolina	Southern University
College of Charleston	The Citadel
Columbia	University of SC
Converse	USC Aiken
Erskine	USC Upstate
Francis Marion	Voorhees
Furman	Winthrop
Lander	Wofford
Limestone	



Leadership for Mastering the Business of Healthcare

Ann V. Griffith, BS, CHES, an Upstate AHEC Continuing Education (CE) Consultant, was among 27 graduates of the Non-Profit Leadership Institute's 2005-2006 class. The Non-Profit Leadership Institute (NPLI) at Francis Marion University was established to provide leadership training to strengthen non-profit organizations across the state. The NPLI is committed to making long-term differences in the lives of the people they serve. It is their goal to provide a higher level of professional skills for the non-profit sector and a greater coordination of efforts to serve the people of the state. In addition to the valuable networking opportunities among the NPLI participants, the Institute provided training concerning the latest thinking in the non-profit sector and included topics such as: leadership; program development and delivery; human resource development, including board members and volunteers; effective financial resource development and management; programmatic and organizational issues related to data collection and reporting; visibility, including managing external relations; and case studies.

In addition to the successful completion of the NPLI certificate program, Ann has been named CE Consultant and Leadership/Faculty Development Coordinator for Upstate AHEC. She has coordinated and taught management and leadership continuing education offerings for over 20 years. Her new position will include responsibilities for the marketing and management of healthcare faculty development programming for the Upstate, the Mastering the Business of Healthcare (MBH) Curriculum, and Upstate AHEC's Leadership Diagnostic Service. These innovative programs have been developed to strengthen and improve the health care system in South Carolina's most rural counties by developing knowledgeable, skilled, and committed health care leaders and faculty.

The programs will give emerging healthcare leaders and academic faculty unique access to current state and national leaders to learn about today's healthcare leadership challenges and what can be done to solve them. One such challenge was identified when sixty percent of Upstate SC rural hospital administrators were surveyed in December 2005 and rated their recruitment and retention problems as severe or extremely severe. These recruitment and talent management pressures translate into the increasing need for highly effective healthcare managers that can meet the demands of today's workforce challenges.

Studies indicate that the most important factor in retaining quality health personnel is management's ability to create and sustain a positive working environment. Research has shown that direct supervisors have the single greatest influence on an employee's productivity, satisfaction, and level of job commitment. Therefore, recruitment and retention issues are directly impacted by managerial competencies. Fortunately, management skills can be developed through leadership training. As skillful, effective managers, the participants of the MBH program will use their improved leadership influence to attract, develop, and retain a high quality, engaged workforce that builds successful healthcare delivery organizations.



The MBH program's multi-track curriculum prepares leaders at all levels of the organization. Its individualized learning approach is supported through the use of a customized 360-degree assessment instrument developed by Upstate AHEC. The Leadership Diagnostic Service is an on-line assessment used to measure the strengths and weaknesses of an organization's management team. Assessment results are used to design individual manager and organization-wide, multi-level leadership development linked to institutional goals and objectives.

The training outlined: is targeted to organization-specific needs and goals; is linked to evidence-based leadership competencies; employs various learning modalities and performance support systems; and incorporates continuous feedback and quality improvement.

A faculty, highly skilled in management education and recognized for their leadership and adult learning presentation styles, will offer instruction and practice during the MBH training sessions.

You can learn more about the faculty development or leadership programming by visiting Upstate AHEC's Continuing Education webpage at www.upstateahec.org/education.html or visiting the new Leadership webpage at www.upstateahec.org/leadership.html.

Network Applies for Reallocated Funding

Beth Kennedy, Project Director, DPRT Network

Due to a reallocation in federal funding, the South Carolina AHEC and all Bioterrorism Training grantees were instructed to reapply for Disaster Preparedness Training funds for Fiscal Year 2007. The reapplication, which was due the first week of August, was tied to the Homeland Security Presidential Directive Eight which includes the National Response Plan, the Uniform Task List, the Targeted Capabilities List, and National Planning Scenarios.

The activities South Carolina AHEC plans to undertake in this new grant cycle include programs about developing personal and professional disasters plans, preparing school nurses and long-term care professionals to respond to natural and man-made emergencies, and helping rural communities develop their capacity for a community-wide collaborative response to pandemic flu, hurricanes, or terrorist attacks. The application will also address EMS skills for explosions, chemical, and biological response, pandemic flu and other natural disasters.

South Carolina AHEC proposes to collaborate with South Carolina DHEC and the South Carolina Hospital Association to train hospitals on the

Incident Command structure, decontamination of contaminated patients, pre-hospital admission, and START triage for mass casualties. These trainings will have hands-on exercises with checklists for performance. Two trailers have been purchased and equipped specifically to provide this training across the state.

Plans also include conferences on mass vaccination, the Strategic National Stockpile, fatality management, recovery from disasters, volunteer development, and psychological response to trauma. These programs will be held in collaboration with various groups with similar goals to the DPRT Network.

Providing the opportunity for learners to practice what they learn and to work with others to address emergencies will be key to all activities provided in the coming year by the DPRT Network. Each program will have an exercise, tabletop or other activity, to demonstrate knowledge, skills, and capabilities. Debriefs, checklists and observations will be used to evaluate the learners.

South Carolina AHEC looks forward to receiving word on the status of the reapplication in the coming month and continuing to provide disaster preparedness training to South Carolina's health care workforce.



Update on South Carolina HERT Activities

Kevin Kirkwood, Mid-Carolina AHEC Disaster Preparedness & Response Training Coordinator

Recently, the South Carolina AHEC Disaster Preparedness & Training Network graduated nine trainers from the week-long Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Train-the-Trainer course. The course was held at the Noble Training Center which is located at Ft. McClellan, AL and is operated by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Management Institute. The Noble Training Center is unique in that it is the only hospital facility in the U.S. devoted to training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response.

These South Carolina trainers will take their

knowledge, practical experience and a fully stocked trailer around the state conducting functional exercises with hospitals.

Exercises will include the proper techniques for donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE), setting up a decontamination station, safely decontaminating patients and the stages of technical decontamination.

This training is essential in preparation for natural or man-made disasters. South Carolina's most recent incident occurred on the morning of January 6, 2005 when a lethal plume of chlorine gas was released from a de-railed train in Graniteville, SC. Talking about preparedness is cheap, practicing preparedness is priceless.



Disaster Preparedness Extends to Provide the “Best” Response

“If disasters have taught us anything, they have taught us that victims suffer emotional as well as the physical injuries,” says Dr. Connie Best, the Mental Health Consultant on South Carolina AHEC’s Disaster Preparedness and Response Training Network (DPRTN). Therefore, preparing South Carolina health care providers in the elements of Psychological First Aid and other psycho-social interventions is an important component to the DPRTN education initiatives.

Dr. Best initially focused her training efforts to mental health providers, but is now expanding the efforts to provide education and training to all types of health care professionals. There are some specific things that have been shown to be effective in reducing the aftermath of disasters; and educating the provider in those methods is a goal of the DPRTN for the coming year.

“We all need to now how to recognize the signs of psychological distress and know how to take steps to minimize the distress in the initial stages of a disaster,” explains Dr. Best. “The initial phase

may be only a few hours or days, but in the event of large-scale disasters such as Hurricane Katrina or pandemic flu, it may be longer. There might not be a sufficient number of mental health providers available. Being able to reduce the high levels of distress in their patients allows the provider to deliver the best care possible.”



A Clinical Psychologist and Professor in the Medical University of South Carolina’s Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Best brings considerable experience to her AHEC role. As an expert in psychological trauma, Dr. Best was asked to serve on a national committee to develop guidelines for the field, has received federal funding to study the effects of disaster and trauma, and has served as a consultant to the US Department of Defense and other federal agencies. In recognition of her achievements, in 1996 Dr. Best received the President’s Award from the U.S. Department of Justice for Outstanding Service to Victims of Crime presented by President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno in the White House.

Dr. Best recently completed work on a Psychological First Aid training presentation geared towards Social Workers. You can access this presentation by visiting www.scahec.net/prepares and clicking on Resource Center.

Mid-Carolina AHEC Expanding Their Partnerships

Mid-Carolina AHEC has partnered with several organizations this past year for some very unique and exciting projects.

A partnership with the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health and SC Department of Mental Health is providing Emergency Department Crisis Stabilization Training. This project provides training in psychiatric emergency services to designated South Carolina Department of Mental Health, SC hospital emergency department personnel including Physicians and Nurses, as well as law enforcement officials assigned to hospital emergency departments.

The series is designed to enhance the targeted audience’s abilities to effectively conduct assessment and triage, to intervene with suicidal,

psychotic, and dangerous patients, to intervene with chemically dependent patients, and to manage involuntary commitments. Legal and liability issues related to emergency mental health care, and identifying and assessing co-occurring disorders are included. This Self Paced-DVD Series is slated for release to South Carolina facilities this fall free of charge.

Mid-Carolina AHEC is also pleased to be partnering with the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind in a three year grant titled Project MAC (Medical Access and Communication for citizens who are deaf or blind in SC). Project MAC is a statewide project designed to provide two hours of live training for healthcare providers regarding service delivery to patients who are deaf and or blind. SC School for the Deaf and Blind provided training for 12 SC Hospital facilities in the first year of the grant and are slated to train 16-20 additional facilities in year two and 25-35 in year three.

Extraordinary Physicians in Extraordinary Times: Family Medicine Answers the Call

Darlene Norton, Residency Coordinator, AnMed Health Family Medicine Residency Program

The theme of this year's Academy of Family Physician's National Conference for Students and Residents in Kansas City was "Extraordinary Physicians in Extraordinary Times: Family Medicine Answers the Call." Conference attendees were inspired by the many physicians, residents and students who are answering the call of our patients, our specialty, and medicine as a whole.

Attendees included 624 medical students, 357 residents and 696 resident exhibit personnel. Family Medicine residencies from across the country were represented. The eight programs from South Carolina worked hard and did a great job sharing information about what their residency programs have to offer. The staff handed out the interactive CD developed by the South Carolina AHEC and the Family Medicine Program Directors Council. The CD is an introduction to the state as well as the individual Family Medicine Residency Programs.

Traffic to the SC AHEC Residency Programs booth was heavy with more than 150 students from 25 states stopping to talk with our program directors



and residents. When South Carolina residents were not on duty in the booth, they took advantage of the workshops, clinics and procedural skills courses offered during the conference. The SC AHEC

Residency Programs were represented well at the AAFP Congress. Elections were held for resident and student AAFP Board members, national conference chairs, delegates to the AAFM Congress of Delegates, national coordinator for the Family Medicine Interest Groups and representative to the Boards of the AAFP Foundation, Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors, and Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.

All the residency programs in South Carolina express their gratitude to Ms. Becky Seignious, Director of Recruitment and Retention Programs at SC AHEC and Ms. Denise Corriher, Program Coordinator at McLeod Family Medicine Residency Program for making this recruiting effort a success.

For more information about South Carolina AHEC's Family Medicine Residency Programs, visit www.scahec.net and select Graduate Medical Education. Copies of the CD are available by contacting Becky Seignious at seignior@musc.edu.

Another very exciting partnership with the South Carolina Centers for Medical Excellence exists in hosting the "Big 7" Conference Call Series, a free quarterly teleconference focusing on Nursing Home Publicly Reported Quality Measures. The calls have been very successful with 70-300 participants from a seven state area including Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Program handouts are provided in advance for the participants, the information is presented by the speaker, and a live question and answer period follows with the moderator asking the participants evaluation questions. Participant responses are received by phone key pad and then tallied.

Presentations in the series include:

- "What's New in Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Treatment?"
- "Depression: What Are We Doing For Our Residents? Part 1 and 2"
- "Resident-Centered Pain Care: Creating and Sustaining Practice Changes"

Additionally, the Association of Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) Palmetto Chapter and Mid-Carolina AHEC are working collaboratively to produce a seven Module Self-Paced Infection Control Series to be marketed to Long Term Care facilities throughout South Carolina. The modules include, Long Tem Care Infection Control Prevention Program, Tuberculosis, Animals in Long Term Care Facilities, OSHA Blood Borne Pathogen Standards and Needle Stick Prevention, Immunizations, Isolation Precautions and Multi-Resistant Organisms. The modules are being developed and tested by Infection Control Practitioners throughout South Carolina. Mid-Carolina AHEC is providing guidance in the development of the self paced curriculum format with continuing education credit.

For more information on all these initiatives, contact Debbi Lewis, MA, RRT, Continuing Education Coordinator for Mid-Carolina AHEC at 803-408-0945.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
David R. Garr, MD

EDITOR
Ragan DuBose-Morris, MA

SOUTH CAROLINA AHEC
Medical University of South Carolina
19 Hagood Avenue, Suite 802
PO Box 250814
Charleston, SC 29425

Phone: 843.792.4431
Fax: 843.792.4430

www.scahec.net

CALL FOR ARTICLES

The editorial staff of "SC AHEC Connects" welcomes the submission of articles, success stories, upcoming events and news for the Winter Edition.

Please forward information, articles and photos to Ragan DuBose-Morris at duboser@musc.edu.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS
November 1, 2006!

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